

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

# Basham Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
**January 26, 2004**

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## **MICHIGAN SMOKE-FREE DINING ACT WEB SITE RECEIVES 22,000 ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN TWO WEEKS**

*Thousands of citizens from all across MI support smoke-free dining efforts*

[www.smokefreediningpetition.com](http://www.smokefreediningpetition.com)

**LANSING** – State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) announced today that the smoke-free dining Web site he unveiled two weeks ago has received another 10,000 electronic signatures since last week to bring the total number of signatures more than 22,000. The Web site has received petition signatures from every county in the state.

“I continue to be amazed by the outpouring of support for this effort,” Basham said. “I’ve been fighting the fight against secondhand smoke in restaurants for years, and this is one of the main reasons why – because the people of Michigan want their health safeguarded.”

On January 12, Sen. Basham joined with statewide health advocacy organizations to launch a grassroots effort to rally public support for the Michigan Smoke-free Dining Act (SB 186). Anyone interested in supporting the effort can log on to [www.smokefreediningpetition.com](http://www.smokefreediningpetition.com) to sign the online petition, contact the senator, and find organizations that are supporting this effort.

According to data from Michigan Citizens for Smoke-free Air, nearly three-quarters (73.9 percent) of adults in Michigan do not smoke. The main opponent to the legislation is the Michigan Restaurant Association.

The following excerpts are from emails Sen. Basham has received in response to his Michigan Smoke-Free Dining Act.

### **What People Are Saying About the Michigan Smoke-free Dining Act?**

- I teach in an elementary school where we teach about not smoking at an early age yet we subject children to second hand smoke without a second thought. – Troy
- While I support smoker's right to smoke, I have an equal right not to breathe their tobacco smoke. Smoking is a voluntary behavior, breathing is not. – Fraser

**-MORE-**

- I strongly support your bill to ban smoking in public restaurants in the state of Michigan. I have smoked for 30 years and find the habit disgusting. I am also a supporter of non-smokers rights. I choose to smoke so I do it in a manner where it does not affect my friends, family, and fellow human beings. – Grosse Pointe Farms
- As a smoker for 26 years and a quitter for even longer, I want to see all pollution removed from places I eat. My father had to retire early because of emphysema (he started smoking at 14) and suffered for over 20 years before his heart gave out. The sight of him with his portable oxygen tank still sears my memory. – Sterling Heights
- This is one a the few items I appreciate my government getting involved in. – South Lyon
- I love this idea! I have asthma and can not breathe when I go into smoky places. – Hamilton
- My husband has asthma and allergies, and I also suffer from allergies; thus, trying to stay away from smoking is extremely important to both of us. – Charlevoix
- Despite being politically conservative, I fully support your efforts in this regard. Party lines do not matter when the issue is public health. – Jackson
- I support the ban on smoking in restaurants. I am a smoker, but do not like it when someone smokes by me or my children. –Troy
- There is no argument that career servers in this industry should be subject to lung cancer and the other proven health risks associated with second hand smoke. Clearly we would not allow waiters to work in restaurants where they were exposed to asbestos or radon, second hand smoke should be no different. -- Clarkston
- Both my husband and I are allergic to tobacco smoke. Exposure of no more than ten minutes results in both of us suffering cold/flu-like symptoms for days afterward. -- Dearborn

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Secondhand smoke has been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Group A carcinogen because it is a known cause of lung cancer in humans and contains 4,000 chemicals including known toxins such as formaldehyde, benzene, and hydrogen cyanide.